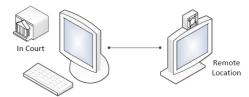


Placer County Superior Court Remote Appearance System User Guide

Last Updated: December 17, 2020



OVERVIEW

The Court has determined hearings eligible for parties and/or attorneys to schedule themselves for remote appearance, hearings subject to judicial approval for a remote appearance, and hearings that require the agreement of parties. See http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml for details on what steps are required for your hearing, and if you may appear by video or telephone.

This packet details how to access VCourt Remote Appearances, the site where attendees can schedule or cancel a remote appearance, as well as upload evidence for applicable hearing types. Click on an item in the table of contents below to navigate to that section.

It is important to know:

- In cases where remote appearance is default eligible or a judicial officer has approved a
 remote appearance, parties and/or attorneys may schedule themselves for a remote
 appearance. Your last opportunity to schedule a remote appearance is 4 PM the court
 day BEFORE your hearing.
- Only ONE PERSON can connect using the remote appearance you schedule. If you have multiple parties appearing remotely, each person needs their own unique link and/or conference PIN and ID, which can be created by using different email addresses.
- The remote appearance you schedule will ONLY be valid for the date and time selected. The conference ID, PIN, and/or link provided to you will not work if your matter is continued or has another hearing set.
- 4. Your case may not be heard at the time the calendar is scheduled to start. Stay connected and you will be taken off hold when your case is called. Keep in mind that this may take a few hours.

If you are having remote appearance related issues and cannot find the answer in this packet, please call (916) 408-6405.

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ACCESSING VCOURT REMOTE APPEARANCES

VCourt Remote Appearances can be accessed by going to: https://epayment.placerco.org/VCourtPortals/

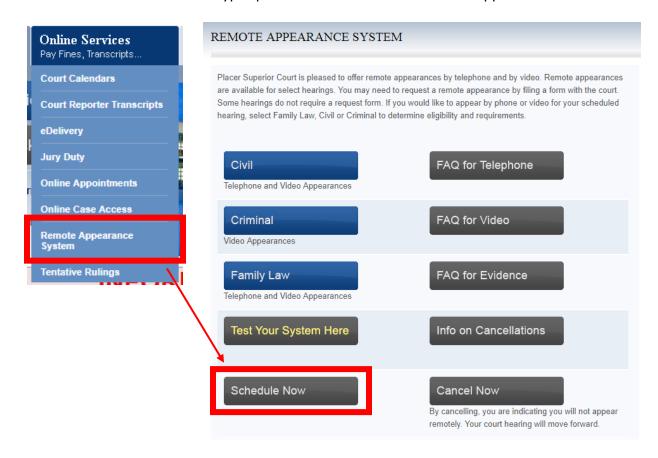
Note: To appear at the hearing, follow the link that is emailed to you after you schedule. You will not be able to connect to the hearing by going to the VCourt Remote Appearances page.

In this section, you will find:

- 1. Navigating to Home Page from Court's Website
- 2. Creating Your CA Courts Identity Account
- 3. Signing into your CA Courts Identity Account
- 4. Forgot CA Courts Identity Password

Navigating to Home Page from Court's Website

To find the VCourt link on the Court's Website, find the **Online Services** menu at the top of the page. Select **Remote Appearance System**, and then the box that says **Schedule Now**. Use the other boxes listed to find case-type specific information about remote appearances.



Creating Your CA Courts Identity Account

To create an account:

Go to https://epayment.placerco.org/VCourtPortals/ and click on Schedule. If you prefer not to create an account and the event you are scheduling for is telephonic eligible, you can schedule without creating an account by selecting continue as guest.



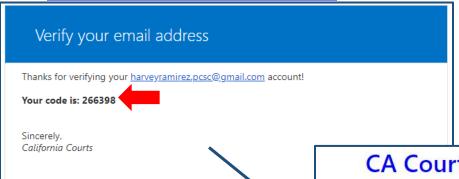
2. At the bottom of the Sign In page, click on **Sign Up Now**.



3. Enter your email and then select **Send Verification Code**.



4. A code will be sent to your email from "Microsoft on behalf of California Courts msonlineservicesteam@microsoftonline.com". You may need to check your spam folder.



 Copy and paste or enter the code sent to your email in the Verification Code field, and then select Verify Code.

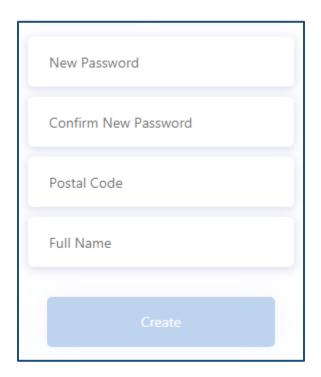
If you get a message that the code has expired, select **Send New Code**. Repeat the process for the new code.



- 6. Once the code has been verified, complete the remaining fields.
 - a. Password: It is required that your password consists of 8 to 16 characters, and includes 3 of the 4 following characteristics:
 - i. Uppercase letter(s)
 - ii. Lowercase letter(s)
 - iii. Number(s) (0-9)
 - iv. Special character(s)
 (ex: # @ \$ % ^ & = ! ?)

Once determined, enter your password into both the **New Password** and **Confirm New Password** fields.

- b. Postal Code
- c. Full Name



7. Select **Create** at the bottom of the screen. The button will turn dark blue once all fields are completed. If it remains shaded (pictured above), confirm each of the fields are correct.

Signing into your CA Courts Identity Account

1. Go to https://epayment.placerco.org/VCourtPortals/ and click on **Schedule**.



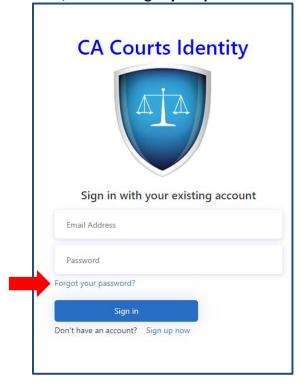
2. Enter your CA Courts Identity email address and password on the Sign in page.

Forgot CA Courts Identity Password

1. Go to https://epayment.placerco.org/VCourtPortals/ and click on **Schedule**.



2. Below the password field, click on Forgot your password?



3. Enter the email associated to your account and select **Send Verification Code**.



4. Copy and paste or enter the verification code sent to your email into the **Verification Code** field. Select **Continue**.



- 5. Create a new password. It is required that your password consists of 8 to 16 characters, and includes 3 of the 4 following characteristics:
 - i. Uppercase letter(s)
 - ii. Lowercase letter(s)
 - iii. Number(s) (0-9)
 - iv. Special character(s)
 (ex: # @ \$ % ^ & = ! ?)
- 6. Once determined, enter your password into both **New Password** and **Confirm New Password**.
- 7. Select Continue.
- 8. Login using your new password.



SCHEDULING YOUR REMOTE APPEARANCE

For hearing types that are default eligible for remote appearances or a judicial officer has approved a remote appearance, parties and/or attorneys may schedule themselves for a remote appearance. If you need to submit a form to request a remote appearance, see the deadlines listed on the court's website.

Your <u>last opportunity to schedule</u> a remote appearance is 4 PM the court day BEFORE your hearing.

If you do not schedule your remote appearance before 4 PM, you will see a "no valid events" message in red when searching for your case and you will be unable to schedule your remote appearance. Please leave yourself enough time to navigate to the scheduling page, and complete all the steps listed in this user guide. The scheduling cutoff time is precise.

The remote appearance you schedule will <u>ONLY be valid for the date and time selected</u> and <u>can only be used by one person</u>. The conference ID, PIN, and/or link provided to you will not work if your matter is continued or has another hearing set. If you have multiple parties appearing remotely, <u>each person needs their own unique link and/or conference PIN and ID.</u>

To create a unique link and/or conference PIN and ID, <u>a different email address</u> must be used for each attendee.

Note that if you schedule within 2 days (48 hours exactly) of the court event, there may be a late fee of \$30. This only applies to hearing types that charge a fee for appearing by telephone or video.

In this section, you will find:

- 1. Navigating to Scheduling Website
- 2. Step 1: Search for Case
- 3. Step 2: Attendee Info
- 4. Step 3: Select Events
- 5. Step 4: Finalize
- 6. Cancelling Your Remote Appearance

Navigating to Scheduling Website

Select **Schedule** to be directed to the CA Courts Identity Sign In page.

See <u>Creating Your CA Courts Identity Account</u> if you have not yet made an account. Creating a CA Courts Identity account is only required for video appearances. If you are scheduling a telephonic appearance, select **continue as guest** in the bottom right corner. Once on the next page, select **Schedule**.



Step 1: Search for Case

Enter your case number, including any numbers, letters, and dashes. See the case number entered in the search field, or list of case numbers with X's, as examples. Once entered, select **Proceed to Step 2.**



If you see an error message in red after select **Proceed to Step 2**, you may have entered your case number incorrectly, or your hearing may not be eligible for scheduling/scheduling without approval. Check the Court's website at http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml to see if your hearing type is eligible for a remote appearance.

Step 2: Attendee Info

Step 2 is how the court gathers your contact information and is able to identify you on the day of your hearing.

You will first be prompted to identify the type of attendee you are by selecting the empty circle for either **An Attorney**, **A Party to the Case**, or **Other**.



After you have chosen the Attendee type, the rest of the Attendee Info form appears. The form differs slightly for each category.

Attorney

- → Enter your name, firm, and bar number.
- → Enter your phone number.
- → Select your client's name in the drop-down menu.
- → You may add up to three people to receive your same confirmation email. This does not schedule them for their own remote appearance.

*Attendee	● An Attorney ○ A Party to the Case ○ Other	
*Attendee Name		
*Firm Name		
*Bar Number		
*Attendee Email	harveyramirez.pcsc@gmail.com	
*Confirm Email	harveyramirez.pcsc@gmail.com	
*Attendee Phone	If court needs to reach attendee	
*Party Name Additional email addresses for appearance information		
	Schedule a reminder for the attendee by: SMS Email	
	Proceed to Step 3. Quit	
	* Required Fields	

A Party to the Case

- → Enter your phone number.
- → Select your name from the dropdown menu.
- → You may add up to three people to receive your same confirmation email. This does not schedule them for their own remote appearance.



You may also schedule reminders by SMS (text message) or email for your remote appearance. Once all the required fields are completed, select **Proceed to Step 3**.

Step 3: Select Events

Select the event you are scheduling a remote appearance for by clicking on the empty box next to the date and time. Once selected, click on **Proceed to Step 4.**

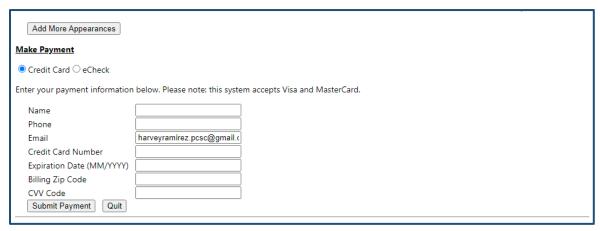


Step 4: Finalize

The user information and selected event appears appear on the Finalize & Pay page. Review and confirm the information is correct before selecting **Schedule**.



If you are scheduling for an event that charges a fee, you will also need to add a payment method. Once entered, select **Submit Payment**.

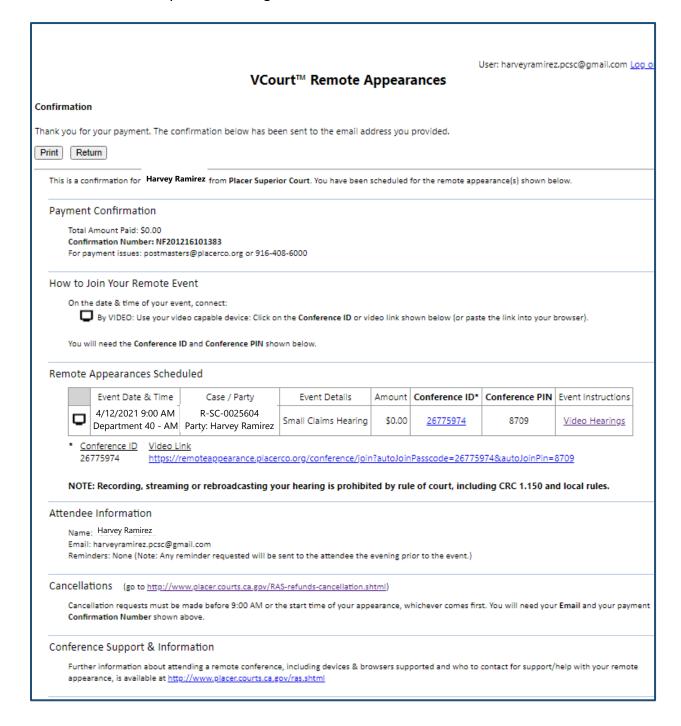


If you select **Add More Appearances**, you can schedule more appearances for the same attendee on other cases before paying. You will directed to complete steps 1-4 again for the second case.

User: harveyramirez.pcsc@gmail.com <u>Log</u>				
VCourt™ Remote Appearances				
To schedule one or more remote appearances for an upcoming event, first enter the case number below. You will then select the party and enter attendee information, choose one or more events, and then finalize and pay (if applicable).				
Step 1. Search for Case >> Step 2. Attendee Info >> Step 3. Select Events >> Step 4. Finalize & Pay				
Enter your full case number, letters and numbers.				
S-CV-XXXXXXX				
T-CV-XXXXXXX				
M-CV-XXXXXXX				
S-PR-XXXXXXX				
S-FS-XXXXXXX				
S-DR-XXXXXXX				
Enter Case Number:				
Proceed to Step 2. Return to Payment Page				

Confirmation

Once the appearance is scheduled, you will receive a confirmation email that replicates the confirmation page below. This email will include a personal website link to join the web conference on the day of the hearing.



Cancelling Your Remote Appearance

Cancelling a remote appearance is not the same thing as 'cancelling' the court hearing. By cancelling, you are indicating you will not appear remotely. Your court hearing will move forward.

The cutoff time for canceling a video or telephone appearance is 9 a.m. the morning of the hearing, or one hour beforehand, whichever occurs first. However, there may be a late cancellation fee of \$5 if canceling late.

To cancel a remote appearance:

1. Find your confirmation number under **Payment Confirmation** in your confirmation email.



 To cancel a video appearance, select Cancel to be directed to the CA Courts Identity Sign In page. If you did not make an account to schedule your telephonic appearance, select continue as guest and then Cancel.



3. Enter your email address and Confirmation number into the fields and select Search.

Cancel an Appearance:		
E-mail Address Confirmation Number		
Search		

4. Any appearances available to cancel will be listed. Select the empty checkbox for the appearance you would like to cancel.



5. To confirm cancelling your remote appearances, select Continue.

_	<u> </u>			
	You have selected to cancel the following events:			
	4/12/2021 9:00 AM R-SC-0025604 Harvey Ramirez vs. Hamilton Susan 725110			
	Continue Go Back			

6. Once the appearance is scheduled, you will receive a confirmation email that replicates the confirmation page below.



CONNECTING ON THE DAY OF YOUR HEARING

A remote appearance is the same as an in-person appearance and any actions that occur in the hearing carry the same authority as if all individuals were physically in the courtroom. You should prepare for your remote appearance as if you are personally appearing at the courthouse.

This section summarizes how to connect to your telephone or video appearance, and important video appearance details to ensure your device is set up correctly for the hearing. In this section, you will find:

- 1. How to Connect: Telephonic
- 2. How to Connect: Video
 - a. <u>Technical Specifications</u>
 - b. Test Your System's Compatibility
 - c. Confirm You're Connected
 - d. Navigating the VCourt Conference Menu
 - e. Settings and Etiquette

How to Connect: Telephonic

- 1. Dial the call-in number shown in your confirmation email.
- 2. When prompted, enter your Conference ID, followed by the # (pound) sign.
- 3. When prompted, enter your unique Conference Pin, followed by the # (pound) sign.

How to Connect: Video

At the time or up to 15 minutes before your hearing, **click the link provided in your confirmation email.** You will be automatically dropped into the video conference, so you will not need to enter the Conference ID or PIN. Here is an <u>example</u>:



Test Your System's Compatibility

It is highly recommended to test your system on a day <u>before</u> your hearing. You can test your system's compatibility by going to <u>https://devmcu.compunetix.com/helper</u>, or by going to the Remote Appearance page <u>http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/RAS.shtml</u> and selecting:

Test Your System Here

Browser Recommendations

The following browsers are **recommended** for use:

- Google Chrome 47 or later, on both Windows and Apple devices.
- Mozilla Firefox 52 or later, on both Windows and Apple devices.
- Microsoft Edge 83 or later, on Windows devices.
- Apple Safari 12.2 or later, on Apple devices.

Do not use Internet Explorer.

Settings and Etiquette

Settings and Technology Preparation:

- → The court requires you to be located indoors with limited background noise and distractions, and have a clear audio and video stream. The use of headphones is highly recommended.
- → It is highly recommended to have a charger easily accessible or plugged into your device before and during the hearing.
- → Test your system prior to connecting at https://devmcu.compunetix.com/helper.
- → **Keep your video and audio <u>UNMUTED</u>** while on hold. You will be placed on hold when you join. Stay on the video call and you will be taken off hold by the court when your case is called. Keep in mind that <u>this may take a few hours.</u>
- → If at any time you become disconnected from the hearing, please rejoin the conference by closing the window and reselecting the same link.

Etiquette:

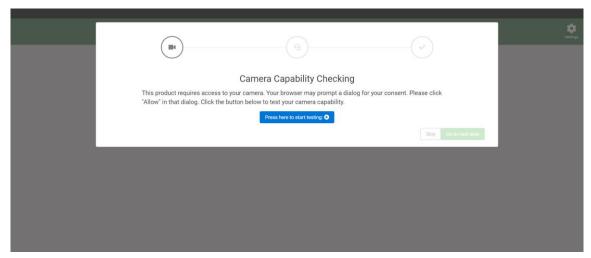
- → You may not record, live stream or otherwise capture your video appearance.
- → You may not receive assistance from anyone besides your attorney or interpreter during your hearing.
- → **Dress appropriately.** Dress as if you were appearing in person at the courthouse.
- → **Prepare in the same way you would if appearing in person.** Have your documents, electronically or in hard copy, available before your hearing starts.
- → Position your device's camera so that your face is fully displayed.

Reminder: The conference information emailed to your will **ONLY** work for the court hearing listed. If your matter is continued or has another hearing set, this link will NOT work for your future hearing(s).

LAST UPDATED: DECEMBER 17, 2020

Confirm You're Connected

When you first join the conference, you will be required to complete the system test. This will ask you to check your camera, microphone, and speaker.



If you fail the system test, try connecting using a different device. If you do not have a secondary device available, call the court at (916)408-6405.

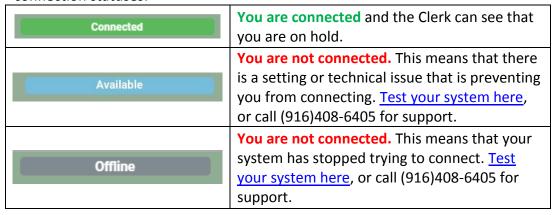
LAST UPDATED: DECEMBER 17, 2020

If you pass the system test, you will be placed on hold. The Clerk will see that you have joined the conference, and will take you off hold when your case is being called or to provide any updates. There are a few ways to confirm that you are connected to the conference:

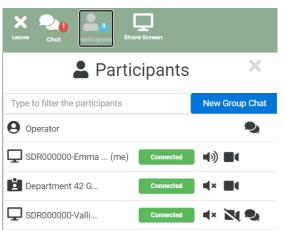
1. You can see the hold screen.



2. The gray bar at the top of your screen says **Connected.** There are three possible connection statuses:

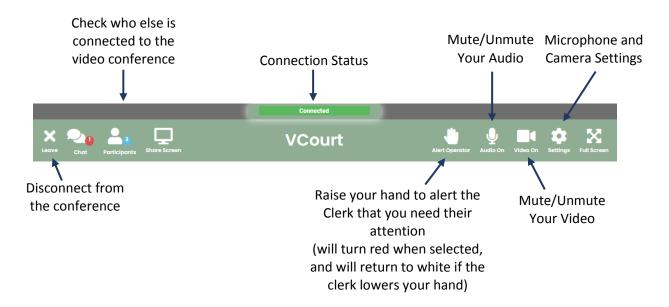


3. There are other participants (including the courtroom) listed under Participants. The number in the blue circle indicates how many participants are in the conference.

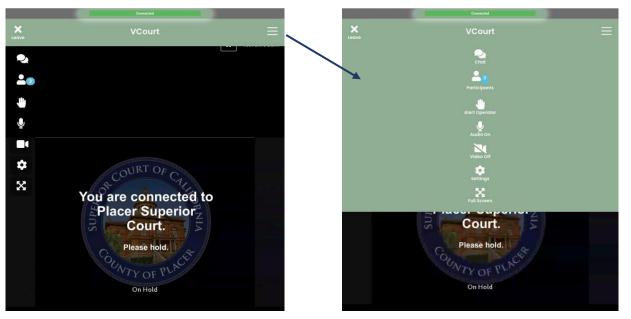


Navigating the VCourt Conference Menu

Below are the menu options most commonly used:



Note: If using a phone or tablet, you can use the controls on the left side of the screen, or select the menu button in the top right corner to expand the options.



EVIDENCE

Electronic Evidence sharing is only available for certain event types. If allowed, you will receive a second email after scheduling your video appearance. Please look for a subject line that says **Evidence Sharing Set Up (**[Case Number – Case Name]).

You may upload evidence online prior to your hearing. Because parties will not be physically present in the courtroom, **any evidence you intend on sharing must be uploaded to the VCourt website**. This website is only intended for evidence, you cannot file documents through this method.

Your last opportunity to upload evidence will be <u>one hour</u> before the hearing. For example, if the calendar begins at 9:00 AM, the ability to upload evidence will be cutoff at 8:00 AM. Only at the cutoff time, you will be able to see the other parties' evidence folder (for viewing only). Please leave yourself enough time to organize your evidence, navigate to the website, and complete all the steps required to upload the files. The cutoff time of one hour prior to the hearing is precise.

Accessing the Evidence portion of VCourt is dependent upon scheduling a video appearance. Please return to the <u>Scheduling</u> section of this user guide if you have not yet completed that step.

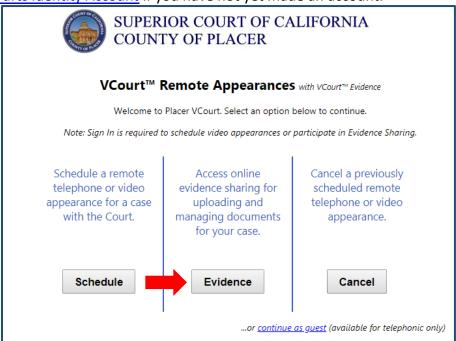
In this section, you will find:

- 1. Uploading Evidence
 - a. Technical Specifications
- 2. <u>Viewing Evidence</u>

Uploading Evidence

Evidence Sharing is accessible by either selecting the link in the **Evidence Sharing Set Up** email, or by returning to the VCourt home page at https://epayment.placerco.org/VCourtPortals/.

1. Select **Evidence** to be directed to the CA Courts Identity Sign In page. See <u>Creating Your CA Courts Identity Account</u> if you have not yet made an account.

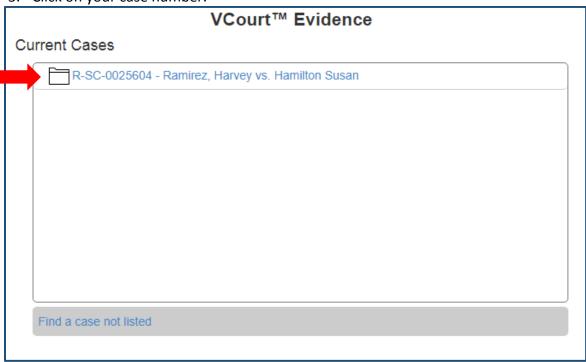


2. Review the Evidence Sharing Disclaimer and select I Agree to navigate to the next page.

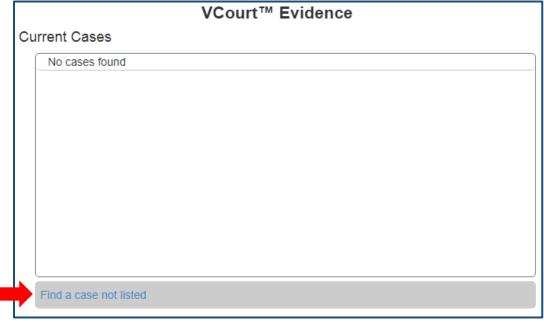


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3. Click on your case number.



If the Current Cases box says **No cases found** instead of listing your case, select **Find a case not listed** and enter your case number in the format similar to this example: **R-SC-00#####**.



Click on your name from the list – this is your "folder" and where you may upload your files. **Do not claim the other parties' folder or more than one folder.**

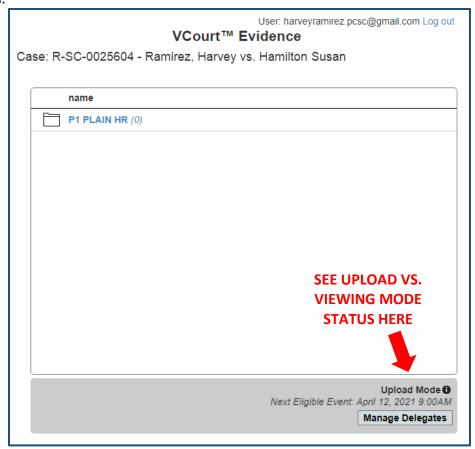
If you see a red message that says Case not found, or there are no upcoming eligible events for this case (example below):



- → Make sure your case is eligible for evidence sharing (confirm you received an email about evidence when scheduling your video appearance).
- → Double check that you have correctly entered your case number.
- → If the case number is correct and the event is eligible for evidence, this means that there are no video appearances scheduled for your case. You must schedule your remote appearance before you can upload evidence. Refer back to page two (2) for information on scheduling your video appearance.

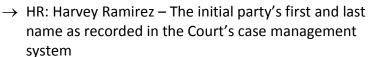
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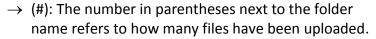
 You will be able to upload exhibits if the site is in **Upload Mode**. When in Upload Mode, you will only see your folder listed for the case. Select the on folder listed to upload your files.



The naming convention for folders is as follows: [Party Number] [Party Type] [Party Initials]. For example, a folder name of "P2 DEF JS" means:

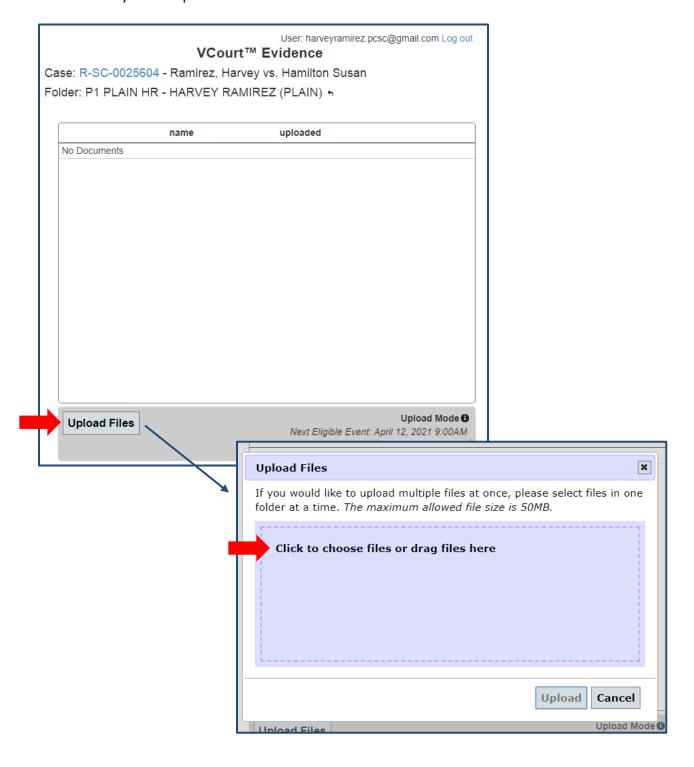
- → P1: Party 1 1st party to register for evidence sharing for this case
- → PLAIN: Plaintiff This party is identified as the plaintiff in the Court's case management system. Other values may be: PET - Petitioner, DEF - Defendant, RES – Respondent



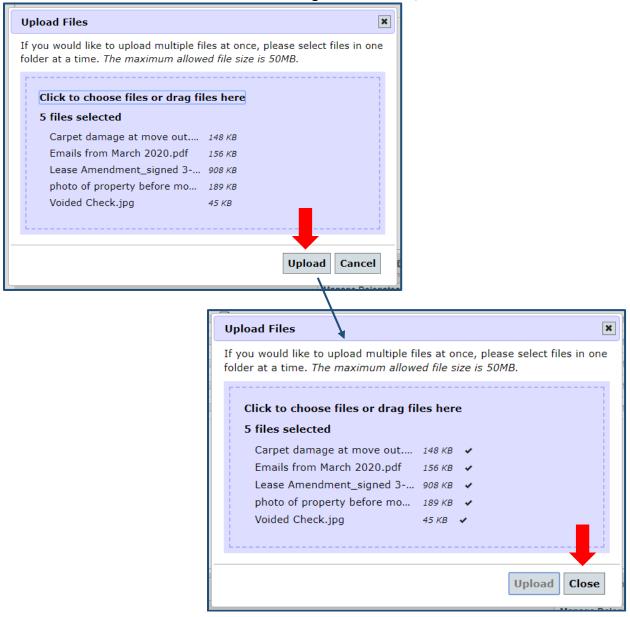




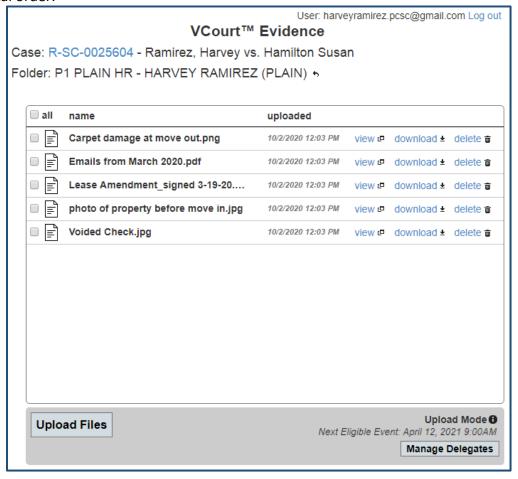
5. To upload files, select the Upload Files button, and then click on the sentence **Click to choose files or drag files here** in the blue box. This will open a window to select files from your computer.



6. Select the files you would like to upload and then click on the **Upload** button. When each file listed has a checkmark to the right of the name, select the **Close** button.



Your files are now saved to your evidence folder. They will automatically sort in alphabetical or numerical order.



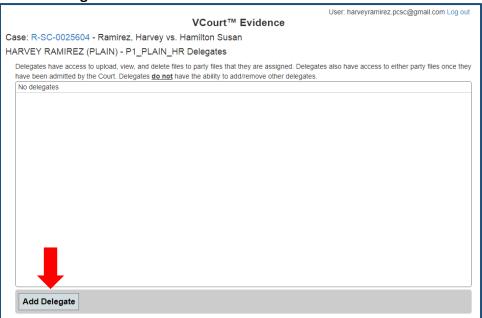
Share Access to Your Evidence Folder with Others

If you would like to allow someone else (for example, your attorney client, spouse, etc.) access your evidence folder and the ability to upload exhibits:

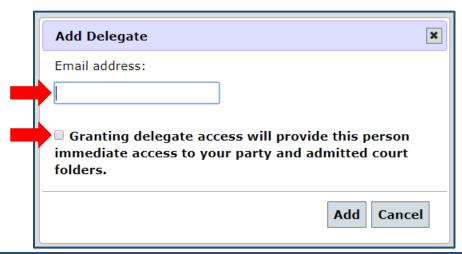
1. Click on **Manage Delegates** in the bottom right corner.



2. Select Add Delegate.



 Enter their email address and select the checkbox to grant them access. Once you select Add, the delegate will receive an email confirmation. They should create or log in to a CA Courts ID Account to view the folder.



Technical Specifications

You may upload the following document types from your device:

\rightarrow .doc	ightarrow .jpeg	ightarrow .flv
\rightarrow .docx	ightarrow .png	ightarrow .wmv
\rightarrow .xls	ightarrow .wav	ightarrow .mp4
\rightarrow .xlsx	ightarrow .pdf	ightarrow .mov
ightarrow .jpg	ightarrow .avi	

If you see a red error message next to a file name, you may need to edit the file name or reduce the size to be able to upload it. The website will not let you upload files if they either:

- \rightarrow Are larger than 50 MB.
- \rightarrow Include any special characters in the file name (Examples: \/: *?" <> |).

Tips for uploading evidence:

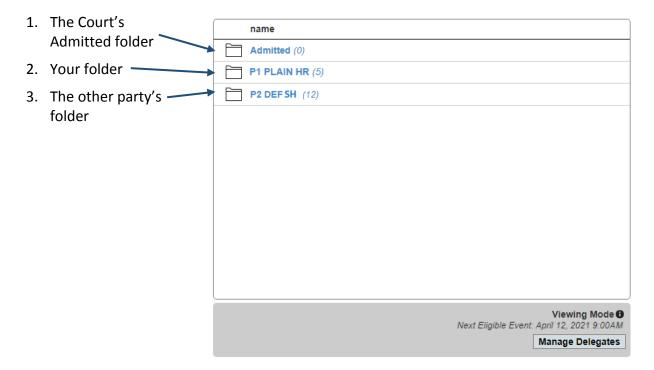
- → Do not combine all your files into a single exhibit. For example, if you have (1) a lease,
 (2) a photograph, and (3) copies of emails, you should be uploading three separate files.
- → Be sure to name your file(s) with a descriptive word or phrase that will inform you what that document is. Examples: "Lease signed 3-10-19"; "Photo of Blue House"; "Emails from March-April 2019"

The court is taking steps to protect against files that are infected with viruses. However, please ensure you have proper security to protect your computer. By using the Evidence Sharing System, you assume all risks associated with the use of this site and the download of the other parties' exhibits.

Viewing Evidence

When it is exactly one hour before the calendar begins, you will no longer be able to upload files, and instead are able to view the other parties' uploaded evidence. The evidence sharing website will switch from Upload to View mode (If the hearing begins at 9:00 AM, the website will switch at 8:00 AM. If the hearing begins at 8:30 AM, the website will switch at 7:30 AM). At this time, you will be able to see:

VCourt™ Evidence
Case: R-SC-0025604 - Ramirez, Harvey vs. Hamilton Susan



Please review the other parties' evidence before the hearing begins. During the hearing, you will be able to view all three folders listed above if you have <u>both</u> the video conference and the VCourt Evidence websites open. You will not be able to access VCourt Evidence from the video conference.